

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /048 W
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P R 221855Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8988

INFO FAA ATLANTA ASO-1F

FAA WASH AIA-200

AMEMBASSY LAPAZ

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EO 11652 - N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BL

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FAA INSPECTOR

REF: LA PAZ 1086

1. LIMA FAA REPRESENTATIVE AND SUB-SECRETARY CASANOVAS DISCUSSED LLOYD AERO BOLIVIANO'S (LAB) SITUATION RELATED TO THE COMPANY'S BOEING 727-100 AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH GENERAL CASANOVA WAS HAZY ON DETAILS, HE INDICATED THAT THE 727 HAS EXCEEDED OVERHAUL TIME LIMITS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED WITH ASSISTANCE OF BOEING COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT BOTH BOEING AND BRANIFF REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE THAT ORIGINAL TIME LIMITS COULD BE EXTENDED SAFELY BY 1,000 TO 2,000 HOURS. CASANOVAS MADE UNSOLICITED OBSERVATION THAT ONE MEMBER OF LANDING GEAR MUST BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY. HE OUTLINED EFFORTS, WHICH TO DATE HAVE BEEN UNCCESSFUL, TO ACQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 727 OR TO LEASE ONE WHILE THEIR AIRCRAFT IS BEING OVERHAULED, AND URGED THAT FAA SEND A TECHNICIAN TO INSPECT THE AIRPLANE WITH A VIEW TO EXTENDING ITS USE TO JULY. HE STRESSED THE FINANCIAL NECESSITY OF KEEPING THE 727 IN OPERATION UNTIL ANOTHER AIRCRAFT IS AVAILABLE.

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2. GENERAL CASANOVAS WAS INFORMED THAT A REVIEW OF THE

BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORIGINAL TIME LIMITS;
A REVIEW OF LAB'S INSPECTION PROGRAM AND RECORDS; AND AN
INSPECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN ONE FAA
TECHNICIAN. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF SUCH A SERVICE
BY FAA WERE FEASIBLE, CHARGES FOR SALARY, PER DIEM AND
TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE INVOLVED. CASANOVAS SUGGESTED
THAT FAA MIGHT BE ABLE TO COLLABORATE ON THE PROJECT
WITHOUT CHARGE, BUT HE WAS INFORMED THAT FAA IS NOT
FUNDED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. HE WAS TOLD
THAT IRISH WOULD DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A
SERVICE TO LAB DURING A TRIP TO MIAMI ON MARCH 4 AND
INFORM HIM OF THE DECISION THROUGH AMBASSADOR STEDMAN.
IT WAS SUGGESTED IN THE MEANTIME GENERAL CASANOVAS SERACH
FOR FUNDING IN EVENT FAA IS DISPOSED TO PERFORM THE
SERVICE

3. GOB PRESSURE ON THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING
THIS PROBLEM GENERATED BY FACT THAT WITHDRAWAL OF 727 FOR
OVERHAUL WITHOUT REPLACEMENT WOULD PUT HEAVY FINANCIAL
STRAIN ON LAB, AND THAT THE QUESTION OF THE AIRWORTHINESS
OF THE AIRPLANE HAS BECOME A MATTER OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION
IN LA PAZ. RESTRICTION OF TRAVEL BY MISSION PERSONNEL
ON THE 727 ANOTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR.

4. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR STEDMAN THAT IF FAA
WERE TO AGREE TO STEP INTO THIS CONTROVERSIAL SITUATION
AND SUPPLY THE SERVICE REQUESTED, IT MIGHT ALSO BE
POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A WAIVER OF COSTS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
IF SUFFICIENTLY STRONG JUSTIFICATION WERE FORTHCOMING
FROM THE EMBASSY

5. IF FAA IS ABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON FEASIBILITY OF
UNDERTAKING PROGRAM PRIOR TO IRISH'S VISIT TO MIAMI, IT
MAY BE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR STEDMAN AND
THE DETAILS OF GOB FORMAL REQUEST AND AN AGREEMENT WITH
FAA COULD BE WORKED OUT IN MIAMI ON MARCH 4.
BELCHER

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